

BRIAN HIGGINS
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

REVITALIZING OLDER CITIES
TASK FORCE
CO-CHAIR

Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260-3500

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

Recently the United States Post Office in the City of Lackawanna, NY was included on a list of Post Office facilities nationwide to be considered for closing. I write to protest Lackawanna's inclusion on this list and strongly recommend that this facility remain open. In 2009 the USPS considered closing the Lackawanna facility. At that time we joined the Lackawanna community in objecting to the closure and won the fight for the USPS to maintain a facility in Lackawanna, the second largest city in Erie County. The office boasted annual revenue in FY 2010 of over \$338,000 with over a 70% office box occupancy rate and an average of 100 customer visits each day.

The City of Lackawanna has a very high concentration of senior citizens who would be unacceptably adversely affected by this proposed closure. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, some 33% of households in Lackawanna are home to at least one resident aged 65 or older. This is substantially higher than the U.S. average of 23%. Over 10% of the population is above the age of 75, and according to the 2000 Census 27.5% of the City of Lackawanna has some form of disability. The 2000 Census illustrates that 23.8% of the households in this community do not have access to a car which compounds the necessity of this neighborhood resource. Senior citizens, those with disabilities, and those with no access to a vehicle cannot be expected to walk to the Post Office in either South Buffalo or Blasdell in order to access a post office, especially in adverse weather conditions.

The City of Lackawanna has one of the highest concentrations of veterans in New York totaling just under fourteen thousand. These service members rely on the Lackawanna facility and deserve the services and convenience it offers. Again, I protest the inclusion of the Lackawanna Post Office on the list of facilities to be studied for closure and I strongly recommend that this facility remain open. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3227

August 9, 2011

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

WESTERN NEW YORK OFFICES:
LARKIN BUILDING
726 EXCHANGE STREET
SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

FENTON BUILDING
2 EAST 2ND STREET
SUITE 300
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
(716) 484-0729
(716) 484-1049 (FAX)
higgins.house.gov